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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS FIFTH SESSION, HELD IN GENEVA FROM 1 TO 12 OCTOBER 2001

Addendum

PART TWO: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS FIFTH SESSION

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Decision 1/COP.5

Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (c), (d) and (h) of the Convention,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Further recalling its decision 11/COP.1 on Procedures for the Communication of Information and Review of the Implementation, paragraph 4 of decision 3/COP.4 on Procedures for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, and paragraph 2 (a) of decision 5/COP.4 on the Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to establish a committee for the review of the implementation of the Convention (CRIC) as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Decides also* to adopt the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as contained in the annex to this decision;

3. *Decides further* that the mandate and functions of the Committee as contained in paragraph 1 (b) of the terms of reference shall be subject to renewal at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, in the light of lessons learned during the overall review of the Committee;

4. *Decides furthermore* that the Conference of the Parties shall, no later than its seventh ordinary session, review the terms of reference of the Committee, its operations and its schedule of meetings, with a view to making any necessary modification, including reconsidering the need for and modalities of the Committee as a subsidiary body;

5. *Invites* Parties to submit written proposals to the secretariat no later than 31 January 2003 on criteria against which the Committee will be reviewed, with a view to determining such criteria at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Decides* that the first session of the CRIC, to be held in November 2002, shall review updates to reports already available and/or new reports from all regions, to be submitted no later than 30 April 2002, and that the second session of the CRIC, to be held during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, shall carry out its functions pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of the terms of reference. After the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, the review shall be conducted in accordance with the timetable outlined in paragraphs 13 to 15 of decision 11/COP.1. The review shall focus on specific thematic issues identified by Parties.

7. *Requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the terms of reference, to compile, synthesize and provide a preliminary analysis of the reports submitted by Parties and observers and the reports on regional inputs, along thematic priorities identified by the Parties for submission to the CRIC;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the preparation of regional inputs for the review process, in cooperation with interested Parties, international, regional and subregional organizations and coordinating mechanisms, and representatives of civil society;

9. *Invites* Parties, in particular developed country Parties and interested organizations as well as private sector and non-governmental organizations, to contribute financially to the organization of regional meetings, including the preparation of national reports, and to the participation of representatives of affected developing country Parties, in particular the least developed among them, with a view to facilitating the preparation of regional inputs for the review process;

10. *Decides* that the key thematic topics for the review, up to and including the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, shall be the following:

- participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;
- legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements;
- resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements;
- linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies;
- measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought;
- drought and desertification monitoring and assessment;
- access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the first session of the Committee appropriate documentation for that session.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

A. Mandate and functions

1. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) shall assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, and shall facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, pursuant to article 26 of the Convention, in order to draw conclusions and to propose to the Conference of the Parties concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. Particularly, it shall:

(a) At sessions held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties:

(i) Use as the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties, the reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism consistent with their respective mandates, and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for;

(ii) Identify and analyse the efficiency and effectiveness of measures taken by the Parties and stakeholders with a view to focusing on activities that meet the needs of people living in affected areas and enhancing measures to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought;

(iii) Identify and synthesize best practices, experiences and lessons learned;

(iv) Identify necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes;

(v) Identify emerging and challenging issues deriving from implementation;

(vi) Consider information on the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievements of the objectives of the Convention, including information from the Global Mechanism;

(vii) Identify ways and means of improving procedures for communication of information, as well as for the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(viii) Identify ways and means of promoting know-how and technology transfer, in particular from the developed countries to the developing countries, for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

(ix) Identify ways and means of promoting experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and all other interested institutions and organizations;

(x) Draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention;

(xi) Submit a comprehensive report to the Conference of the Parties in the light of its programme of work, including conclusions and recommendations;

(b) At sessions held during the COP:

(i) Consider the comprehensive report of the inter-sessional session;

(ii) Review regularly the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism;

(iii) Review regularly reports prepared by the secretariat on the execution of its functions;

(iv) Consider reports on the collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;

with a view to elaborating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties;

B. Composition

2. The Committee shall be composed of all Parties to the Convention.

3. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which wishes to be represented at a session of the Committee as an observer may be admitted unless one third of the Parties present at the session object.

4. The Committee shall elect its own four Vice-Chairpersons, of whom one shall act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chairperson, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they shall constitute the Bureau. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. The Chairperson of the CRIC shall be a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Frequency of sessions and organization of work

5. Sessions of the Committee shall be held during and once between each of the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

6. Sessions of the Committee held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall not be longer than two weeks.

7. Extraordinary sessions of the Committee shall be held at such times as may be decided by the Conference of the Parties.

8. Sessions of the Committee shall be public, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

9. The programme of work of the Committee, which should include estimates regarding financial implications, shall be approved by the Conference of the Parties. At the beginning of each of its sessions, the Committee shall adopt its agenda and organization of work for the session.

10. In agreement with the Chairperson of the Committee, the secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each session.

II. Nature of the review and methodology

11. The review shall be open and transparent, inclusive, flexible and facilitative, as well as effective in terms of the use of financial, technological and human resources. It shall be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise which will identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention, but it will not be an assessment of compliance.

12. The review shall be conducted thematically with due regard to geographic regions and subregions.

III. The review process

13. The review process shall examine, *inter alia*, reports submitted by the Parties, information and advice from the Global Mechanism and the Committee on Science and Technology, as well as reports by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for.

14. National reports shall be submitted to the secretariat for compilation, synthesis and preliminary analysis. Parties shall have an opportunity to review in reasonable time the portions of such documents prepared by the secretariat that refer to them by name.

15. The secretariat should, to the extent possible, take advantage of its ongoing work and activities at the regional and/or subregional levels to disseminate information stemming from its preliminary analysis and seek to obtain feedback with a view to enriching the Committee's work base, while favouring a bottom-up and participatory approach.

16. The secretariat shall compile a synthesis report for consideration by the Committee. The regional and subregional feedback referred to in paragraph 15 shall be annexed to the secretariat's report. The CST, including through the use of its Group of Experts, and the Global Mechanism shall be invited to provide to the CRIC advice and information on the basis of the report by the secretariat.

F. Outcome

17. The Committee shall report on its work at each ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties.

18. The report of the Committee shall be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and any decision the Conference may wish to take on the implementation of the Convention.

G. Transparency of work

19. All the reports and the results of the work of the Committee shall be in the public domain.

Decision 2/COP.5

Date and venue of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2(a) and (c), of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also its decision 1/COP.5,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Decides* that the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention shall be held at Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, from 18 to 29 November 2002, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and to meet the related additional financial cost;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to accommodate, by 20 April 2002, any offer from a Party to host the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 3/COP.5

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 6/COP.3 which, *inter alia*, established an Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) to review and analyse in depth the reports submitted at its third and fourth sessions, in order to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention,

Further recalling its decision 1/COP.4 on procedures to review reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and decision 3/COP.4 on procedures for the review of the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling furthermore decision 2/COP.4 on the interim report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the necessity to foster partnership building for the implementation of action programmes within affected countries,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the comprehensive report of the AHWG as contained in document ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6;

2. *Also takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group annexed to this decision;

3. *Invites* Parties to accelerate, and interested international and non-governmental organizations to take the necessary steps, in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the AHWG, to facilitate the completion of national action programmes and the implementation of such programmes, in particular at the local level;

4. *Urges* all Parties to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes, as appropriate.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Annex

CONCLUSIONS AND CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FURTHER STEPS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

A. Strategies and policy frameworks

1. Parties welcomed the holding of the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) and considered it an excellent opportunity to mobilize more political will and financial resources to promote UNCCD.

2. Parties recognize that the challenge of mainstreaming or integrating the NAP into broader strategic frameworks or consultative processes for sustainable development is a complex matter that should be dealt with through an appropriate consultation mechanism at country level.

3. Country Parties, sitting as members of the governing boards of multilateral organizations, technical agencies and development banks, should facilitate the coherence of these respective policy and strategy frameworks with the discharging of their obligations under UNCCD. The forthcoming COP may wish to invite such Parties to encourage a more direct response on the part of these organizations to the needs of the people in the drylands through the UNCCD implementation process. In this respect the emerging cooperation between the European Community and the affected Asian, Caribbean and Pacific countries is encouraged.

4. A global assessment and regular update of the status of desertification worldwide remains a necessity. Recent relevant multilateral initiatives must be more closely related to UNCCD. For instance, managers of the MEA, the Dry Lands Degradation Assessment (LADA) and of the Integrated Land and Water Management Initiative for Africa should more actively seek cooperation with and involvement of the UNCCD national focal points in relevant countries. Likewise, managers of the Capacity Development Initiative should be invited to consider including support to the UNCCD regional thematic networks in their programme.

5. Ongoing economic policy debates in multilateral forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) must better take into account the implications of trade, pricing and subsidies for the sustainable use of natural resources in the drylands. The COP may wish to invite the Committee on Trade and Environment of the WTO to include UNCCD-related matters in its deliberations from the point of view of a more open access of drylands products to international markets.

6. The potential for private sector investment in the drylands is recognized in such sectors as the mining and extraction industry, ecotourism and the production of medicinal plants and genetic material for the pharmaceutical industry or hydroponic agricultural production. Nevertheless incentives must be provided to encourage a sustainable use of land resources by corporate interests. The promulgation of environment-friendly guidelines for the relevant sectors of the economy in the drylands should be encouraged so as to ensure benefits at the local level. In this respect, the UNCCD secretariat is invited to pursue its cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

7. To promote the policy coherence needed within the United Nations system, the COP should invite the Secretary-General to recommend to the heads of the relevant agencies a decisive effort, so as better to orient the interventions of their respective organizations towards support of the Convention for the ultimate benefit of lower-income groups in the drylands.

B. Institutional aspects including the implementation review process

8. Coordination at country level is seen as of utmost priority. Affected country Parties are urged to facilitate a closer coordination between the UNCCD NFPs and relevant government bodies involved in the allocation of development aid, such as ministries of finance, planning commissions or departments of foreign affairs in charge of the coordination of aid. NFPs are invited to raise the priority of combating desertification in multilateral and bilateral negotiations.

9. Developed country Parties and the European Community are expected more explicitly to mobilize the local representatives of their aid agency or embassy to liaise more directly with the NFP in order to support the NAP formulation, to mainstream the environmental dimension of UNCCD in their development programmes and to incorporate drylands environmental and social cost analysis in the identification and planning of their projects.

10. Developed country Parties are invited to use the review process to strengthen further the coherence of their ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid efforts with those of the developing country Parties implementing the Convention. Developed country Parties are encouraged actively to incorporate the findings of the process into their programming of future assistance measures.

11. Relevant international organizations are requested to contribute more actively to the forthcoming review process through a presentation of measures they are taking in support of the launching of the operational phase of the implementation process.

12. Parties recognize the need to adjust their national reporting to the evolving needs of the implementation process, notably with respect to the activities related to the CST and the involvement of civil society, and therefore request the secretariat to modify the Help Guide accordingly in order to assist in the preparation of the second generation of national reports.

13. All Parties agree on the necessity for a continued exchange of information and for an analytical assessment in order to monitor the implementation of the Convention and to enable the COP to take appropriate measures in the evolving context of its constraints and progress. Affected developing countries call for the establishment of a standing subsidiary body of the COP to review implementation as a decisive step towards adequately discharging this critical task.

C. Participatory process and outreach at the local level

14. The Convention was found to be largely successful in raising awareness of the need for sustainable management of natural resources at grassroots level, but the interest raised must be sustained by appropriate action. Provisions for support must be earmarked within the UNCCD NAP for further awareness-raising activities and to sustain the participatory implementation of the Convention. More specifically, it is recommended that local area programmes be developed, identifying opportunities

for synergistic initiatives to be taken on a territorial basis, at the grassroots level.

15. It was also deemed necessary to inform public opinion in developed country Parties on the relevance of the Convention, notably in the context of broad concerns such as reducing rural poverty or forced emigration from the drylands.

16. Added resources deriving from climate adaptation funding sources should thus permit such programmes under the UNCCD NAPs by initiating capacity-building measures, in order to equip local communities to deliver obligations under UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC. Such training would include guidelines on planning an integrated set of measures that restore degraded environments, protect the biodiversity and maintain carbon sinks while responding to the socio-economic needs of the local population. Lessons learned during the UNCCD process must be made available at local level.

D. Consultative mechanism for partnership arrangements

17. Parties that have completed their NAPs now face the immediate need to establish a predictable consultative mechanism for the conclusion of partnership arrangements. The COP may consider how the respective NFPs can receive the earliest support in this respect.

18. The positive role of the resident coordinators of the United Nations system in support of the NAP process was commended, and the field offices of UNDP should facilitate more systematically the convening of UNCCD-related consultative meetings.

19. Similarly, the NFP in all regions and bilateral donors might wish to identify bilateral *chefs de file* in their respective countries to join in the common launching of this necessary consultative process. Developed country Parties are invited to consult among themselves under an appropriate Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) framework in order to agree on a common policy with respect to country-driven consultative mechanisms for partnership arrangements under UNCCD and to report to the forthcoming COP on progress made on this matter.

20. It is recommended that COP 5 agree on a proposal for a schedule of consultative meetings for countries that have adopted their NAPs, in conformity with the pertinent provisions of the regional implementation annexes of the Convention.

E. Measures taken within the NAP framework

21. Lack of funding was quoted as the most common reason given for delays in preparing the NAPs to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The co-Chairmen can only reiterate in this respect the appeal they made in their interim report on the first session of the AHWG. In the context of the Declaration on Commitment adopted at COP 4 it is indeed appropriate for bilateral and multilateral donors to provide catalytic funds to enable the completion of the NAPs. They are invited to review ways and means of doing so before COP 5.

22. Improved national coordination requires, to start with, enhancing the information exchange between ministries and relevant organizations and/or agencies. The scientific and research communities must also be included. It is important

further to improve information exchange at the national level, particularly taking into consideration the fact that bilateral assistance negotiators should be associated at an early stage with the NAP process, as well as ministries of planning and finance. A greater coherence of information flows at national level will enhance the likelihood of receiving financial assistance for desertification projects. Various sources of assistance, including private sector funding, should be sought to equip national focal points and key stakeholders with the appropriate information technology.

23. Centralizing the NAP with a multitude of other instruments addressing problems associated with desertification and drought is a considerable challenge that the NFP must confront with adequate support from multilateral and bilateral partners in terms of coordination, exchange of timely information and, as appropriate, technical assistance. To ensure effective monitoring of UNCCD, links with relevant instruments must be created while preserving the integrity of the NAP formulation and adoption process.

F. Subregional and regional cooperation

24. The problems created by human factors and the interactions between ecosystems often call for common solutions in countries sharing the same ecosystems. It also calls for the effective communication and exploitation of best practices and of lessons learned, particularly with respect to GIS systems, meteorology or knowledge-based agro-ecology. In this respect the role of subregional and regional organizations was commended, and the call for strengthening their capacities to back up NAP development in member countries was reiterated.

25. Regional thematic networks need to be further strengthened. They play a cost-effective role in support of CST-driven initiatives such as those on benchmarks and indicators, the promotion and protection of traditional knowledge and building on best practices. Initiatives need to focus on success stories already available. Replication of best practices could serve as a useful tool for passing on existing knowledge.

26. In the light of the above, the need for partnership agreements at subregional and regional level was emphasized by many Parties, notably in the light of the fact that specialized subregional and regional institutions are in a position to bring a welcome substantive contribution to the review of the implementation process.

27. It is recommended that further exchanges of information, advisory services and experience between the regional implementation annexes of the Convention be promoted, making full use of existing subregional and regional institutions for South-South cooperation.

G. Financing of the Convention

28. The Parties agreed that the allocation of provisions to agriculture, rural development and/or the combat against desertification within the national budget of an affected country Party is an important indication of the political will of that country to discharge its obligations under UNCCD. Consistent with the Declaration on the Commitments to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention adopted at COP 4, they reiterated the necessity for provision of substantial financial assistance to developing countries.

29. The Parties expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Global Mechanism in discharging its mandate and the positive role it plays in further mobilizing donors. Nevertheless, the Parties acknowledged that, five years after the entry into force of the Convention, the Convention could not avail itself of a predictable mechanism for financing, in a timely and adequate manner, the Convention's enabling activities such as the preparation of national reports or the preparation and adoption of programming instruments at national, subregional or regional levels, let alone finance for operational activities under the NAPs.

30. In this context, on the supply side of the provision of required finance, a significant number of Parties recommend the Council of the GEF to include, during the forthcoming replenishment exercise, a financing window for combating desertification to access GEF resources in order to secure and facilitate the Convention's implementation including enabling activities.

31. In the meantime, on the demand side of the provision of required finance, the UNDP field offices in affected countries should be provided with the necessary additional resources to facilitate, together with a bilateral *chef de file*, the convening of the consultative meetings to bring about the partnership arrangements necessary to finance the proposed operations under the NAPs, in cooperation with the Global Mechanism and the secretariat.

32. The Global Mechanism, in cooperation with the members of its Facilitation Committee, should target an early matching of demand and supply through the facilitation of funding for the NAP's operations, and should be entrusted with monitoring the follow-up activities of this consultative process in order to facilitate the timely disbursement of pledged assistance. Its role should also be strengthened in support of the subregional and regional action programmes.

H. Issues related to the Committee on Science and Technology, including benchmarks and indicators

33. Environment management initiatives must be reinforced through added capacity-building measures, notably at the local level. More specifically, capacity training for focal points is needed for a systematic training in the development and application of indicators related to desertification, as well as in the use of Geographical Information System and Environmental Information System.

34. Information and awareness raising should also reach the academic and scientific community, and should cover, as part of a national monitoring system specific to desertification, those issues related to the development and application of benchmarks and indicators, so that representatives from the National Coordinating Body (NCB) can start utilizing and testing the implementation indicators elaborated by the CST with the necessary institutional backing of the scientific communities in their own countries. Impact indicators have not yet been agreed upon by the CST.

35. Financial assistance is needed so as to ensure that pilot activity areas can be established in which to test the indicators as part of a monitoring and assessment process, in accordance with CST recommendations.

36. Financial assistance is also required for conducting national inventories of traditional knowledge and practices used to combat desertification. The UNCCD regional thematic networks represent a decentralized capacity for expanding the coverage of these activities and should be enabled to do so.

37. Finally it was recommended that in reviewing the Help Guide for the preparation of NAPs as stipulated in decision 10/COP.4, the secretariat should reflect the needs of affected developed country Parties. The secretariat should also include the following guidelines that reflect the concerns, activities and recommendations of the CST, and which should be used, as appropriate, by Parties:

- the development and utilization of benchmarks and indicators that go beyond the physical and biological indicators so as to touch on institutional, including legislative as well as socio-economic, issues such as qualitative and quantitative evaluation of civil society participation;

- the utilization of, or need for, early warning systems tools for the management of drought;

- the presentation of key ongoing and/or planned activities, projects and programmes that either tackle the root causes or correct the visible effects of desertification in order to draw lessons learned and share scientific and technical approaches utilized;

- the illustration of South-South and North-South collaborative efforts that highlight the benefits of the exchange and transfer of information, technologies and technical know-how;

- the presentation of strategies and approaches used to collect, share and communicate information for the purposes of advocacy and sensitization, as well as the utilization and improvement of traditional knowledge for combating desertification;

- the presentation of ongoing and/or planned synergistic or collaborative approaches and activities with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, particularly the CBD and the UNFCCC.

Decision 4/COP.5

Programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraphs 3, 9 and 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[1]

Having considered the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003 submitted by the Executive Secretary,[2] the report on the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund,[3] the report on the performance of the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2000-2001,[4] the report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities in the biennium 2000-2001,[5] the report on the need for, modalities for, costs involved in and feasibility of the regional coordination units,[6] and the report on the status of contributions to the Convention's trust funds in the biennium 2000-2001,[7]

Noting with appreciation the annual contribution of the host Government of € 511,291.88, equivalent to DM 1 million, which offsets contributions from other Parties to the Convention,

A. The core budget

1. *Approves* the core budget for the biennium 2002-2003, amounting to US$ 15,925,200, for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

2. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 as contained in the annex to this decision, based on the scale of assessment adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations;[8]

3. *Reaffirms* the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat (decision 2/COP.1), in particular paragraph 12 (a), which states that contributions made each year by Parties are on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and paragraph 16, regarding the treatment of new Party contributions to the Convention;

4. *Decides* that the required contributions based on the indicative scale of assessment should accompany any new budget proposal;

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[1] Decision 2/COP.1.
[2] ICCD/COP(5)/2 and Add.1.
[3] ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.2.
[4] ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.3.
[5] ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.4.
[6] ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.5.
[7] ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.6.
[8] A/RES/55/5B.

5. *Approves* a staffing level of forty-three (43) for the secretariat and fourteen (14) for the Global Mechanism for 2002-2003, from the core budget, as stated in table 2 below;

6. *Approves* a contingency budget for conference services, amounting to US$ 5,583,000, to be added to the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget for that biennium as contained in table 3 below;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly of the United Nations to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium;

8. *Notes* the estimated additional cost of US$ 919,000 which will be incurred in the event that the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, and *decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for this purpose do not reach this amount, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing as set out in table 3 below;

9. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines 1 to 5 set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;

10. *Decides* to maintain the level of the working capital reserve at 8.3 per cent of the estimated expenditure, including overhead charges, of the core budget;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of an allotment of overheads for the financing of additional posts or activities in the administrative area of the secretariat, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session;

12. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are expected on or before 1 January of each year in accordance with paragraph 14 of the financial rules of the Convention, and to pay promptly and in full, for each of the years 2002 and 2003, the contributions required to finance the expenditures approved under paragraph 1 above, as offset by the estimated contribution noted under the third paragraph of the preamble to this decision, and the contributions which may result from the decision referred to in paragraph 6 above;

13. *Calls upon* Parties that have not yet done so to pay as soon as possible and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for 2001;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session on the financial performance of the Convention's funds, and to submit a programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for consideration by the Parties;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and the performance reports for 2002-2003, to include detailed tables and narrative of the implemented as well as the proposed expenditures, and resource requirements for each subsidiary body under the budget line for substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies specified according to the actual Fund utilized, and to present a draft indicative scale of assessment;

16. *Invites* Parties to submit, by 31 July 2002, proposals and suggestions to assist the secretariat in preparing financial reporting and budget proposals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session;

B. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund

17. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contribution of € 511,291.88, equivalent to DM 1 million, to the secretariat for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

18. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for the Supplementary Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in document ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.2 (US$ 12,643,500 for the biennium 2002-2003 as specified in table 5 below) and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 9 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their participation in UNCCD regional conferences or meetings;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

19. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in that same document (US$ 1,243,000) and for participation in the CRIC (US$ 1,209,100) for the biennium 2002-2003 as specified in table 6 below, and invites Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to this Fund, established under paragraph 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to support the participation of developing country Parties and in particular least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and invites Parties to submit proposals and suggestions to assist the secretariat in the preparation of this report.

Table 1. Programme and budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Thousands of US dollars)

	Programmes	2002	2003	Total (2002-2003)
1.	Executive Direction and Management	760.0	790.0	1,550.0
2	Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies	1,245.3	1,044.3	2,289.6
3.	Facilitation of Implementation and Coordination	1,728.4	1,758.1	3,486.5
4	External Relations and Public Information	510.0	520.0	1,030.0
5	Administration and Finance	1,193.0	1,193.0	2,386.0
6	Global Mechanism	1,737.3	1,787.3	3,524.6
Subtotal		7,174.0	7,092.7	14,266.7
Overhead charges		932.6	922.1	1,854.7
Working capital reserves		112.8	0.0	112.8
Total		8,219.4	8,014.8	16,234.2
Less voluntary contribution from the Host Government		454.5	454.5	909.0
Net required as indicative contributions		7,764.9	7,560.3	15,325.2

Table 2. Staffing table for the biennium 2002-2003

UNCCD secretariat

A. Professional category and above	2002	2003
ASG	1	1
D-1	2	2
P-5	9	10
P-4	9	8
P-3	5	5
P-2	4	4
Subtotal A	**30**	**30**
B. General Service category	13	13
Subtotal (A+B)	**43**	**43**

Global Mechanism

C. Professional category and above		
D-2	1	1
D-1	1	1
P-5	4	4
P-4	1	1
P-3	2	2
P-2	0	0
Subtotal C	**9**	**9**
D. General Service category	5	5
Subtotal (C+D)	**14**	**14**
Total staffing requirements	**57**	**57**

Table 3. Estimate for contingency for conference services (in the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in its regular budget)

(Thousands of US dollars)

Item of expenditure	2003
United Nations meeting services	4,562.0
Overhead charges	593.1
Working capital reserve	427.9
Total	**5,583.0**

Table 4. Operating costs of holding the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn

(Thousands of US dollars)

Item of expenditure	2003
Incremental costs	740.0
Contingencies	74.0
Subtotal	**814.0**
Overhead charges	105.0
Total	**919.0**

Table 5. Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirement

(Thousands of US dollars)

	2002	2003	Total
Estimated resource requirement	5,456.0	5,732.0	11,189.0
Overhead charges	709.3	745.2	1,454.5
Total	6,165.5	6,478.0	12,643.5

Table 6. Special Fund estimated resource requirement

(Thousands of US dollars)

	2002	2003	Total
Estimated resource requirement	1,070.0	1,100.0	2,170.0
Overhead charges	139.1	143.0	282.1
Total	1,209.1	1,243.0	2,452.1

Annex

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CORE BUDGET OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE BIENNIUM 2002-2003					
Parties to the UNCCD[1]	Indicative scale of assessments for 2001 (%)[2]	UN scale 2002 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2002 (%)[2]	UN scale 2003 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2003 (%)[2]
1. Afghanistan*	0.008	0.007	0.007	0.009	0.009
2. Albania	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
3. Algeria	0.073	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.069
4. Angola*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
5. Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
6. Argentina	1.208	1.159	1.132	1.149	1.121
7. Armenia	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
8. Australia	0.000	1.640	1.603	1.627	1.587
9. Austria	0.995	0.954	0.932	0.947	0.924
10. Azerbaijan	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
11. Bahamas	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	0.012
12. Bahrain	0.019	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
13. Bangladesh*	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010
14. Barbados	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009
15. Belarus	0.002	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019
16. Belgium	1.187	1.138	1.112	1.129	1.101
17. Belize	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
18. Benin*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
19. Bolivia	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008
20. Botswana	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010
21. Brazil	2.332	2.093	2.045	2.390	2.332
22. Bulgaria	0.008	0.013	0.008	0.013	0.013
23. Burkina Faso*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
24. Burundi*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
25. Cambodia*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
26. Cameroon	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009
27. Canada	2.690	2.579	2.520	2.558	2.496
28. Cape Verde*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
29. Central African Republic*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
30. Chad*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001

Parties to the UNCCD[1]	Indicative scale of assessments for 2001 (%)[2]	UN scale 2002 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2002 (%)[2]	UN scale 2003 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2003 (%)[2]
31. Chile	0.207	0.187	0.182	0.212	0.207
32. China	1.611	1.545	1.509	1.532	1.495
33. Colombia	0.195	0.171	0.167	0.201	0.196
34. Comoros*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
35. Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
36. Congo	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
37. Costa Rica	0.021	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020
38. Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009
39. Croatia	0.000	0.039	0.038	0.039	0.038
40. Cuba	0.031	0.030	0.029	0.030	0.029
41. Cyprus	0.000	0.038	0.037	0.038	0.037
42. Czech Republic	0.000	0.172	0.168	0.203	0.198
43. Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
44. Denmark	0.787	0.755	0.738	0.749	0.731
45. Djibouti*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
46. Dominica	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
47. Dominican Republic	0.024	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023
48. Ecuador	0.026	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
49. Egypt	0.084	0.081	0.079	0.081	0.080
50. El Salvador	0.019	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
51. Equatorial Guinea*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
52. Eritrea*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
53. Ethiopia*	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
54. European Community	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500
55. Fiji	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
56. Finland	0.549	0.526	0.514	0.522	0.509
57. France	6.796	6.516	6.366	6.466	6.310
58. Gabon	0.015	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014
59. Gambia*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
60. Georgia	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
61. Germany	10.268	9.845	9.618	9.769	9.533
62. Ghana	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
63. Greece	0.567	0.543	0.531	0.539	0.526

Parties to the UNCCD[1]	Indicative scale of assessments for 2001 (%)[2]	UN scale 2002 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2002 (%)[2]	UN scale 2003 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2003 (%)[2]
64. Grenada	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
65. Guatemala	0.028	0.027	0.026	0.027	0.027
66. Guinea*	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
67. Guinea-Bissau*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
68. Guyana	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
69. Haiti*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
70. Honduras	0.005	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.005
71. Hungary	0.126	0.121	0.119	0.120	0.117
72. Iceland	0.034	0.033	0.032	0.033	0.032
73. India	0.358	0.344	0.336	0.341	0.333
74. Indonesia	0.210	0.201	0.196	0.200	0.195
75. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.265	0.236	0.230	0.272	0.265
76. Ireland	0.309	0.297	0.290	0.294	0.287
77. Israel	0.436	0.418	0.408	0.415	0.405
78. Italy	5.324	5.104	4.986	5.0648	4.942
79. Jamaica	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
80. Japan	20.515	19.669	19.216	19.5158	19.044
81. Jordan	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008
82. Kazakhstan	0.030	0.029	0.028	0.028	0.027
83. Kenya	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008
84. Kiribati*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
85. Kuwait	0.154	0.148	0.144	0.147	0.143
86. Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
87. Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
88. Lebanon	0.013	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012
89. Lesotho*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
90. Liberia*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
91. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.070	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.066
92. Liechtenstein	0.000	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
93. Luxembourg	0.083	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.079
94. Madagascar*	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
95. Malawi*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002

Parties to the UNCCD[1]	Indicative scale of assessments for 2001 (%)[2]	UN scale 2002 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2002 (%)[2]	UN scale 2003 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2003 (%)[2]
96. Malaysia	0.248	0.237	0.231	0.235	0.230
97. Mali*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
98. Malta	0.016	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015
99. Marshal Islands	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
100. Mauritania*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
101. Mauritius	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
102. Mexico	1.142	1.095	1.070	1.086	1.060
103. Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
104. Monaco	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
105. Mongolia	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
106. Morocco	0.047	0.045	0.044	0.044	0.043
107. Mozambique*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
108. Myanmar*	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.010
109. Namibia	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007
110. Nauru	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
111. Nepal*	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
112. Netherlands	1.827	1.751	1.711	1.738	1.696
113. New Zealand	0.000	0.243	0.237	0.241	0.236
114. Nicaragua	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
115. Niger*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
116. Nigeria	0.065	0.056	0.055	0.069	0.067
117. Niue	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
118. Norway	0.679	0.652	0.637	0.646	0.630
119. Oman	0.065	0.062	0.061	0.061	0.060
120. Pakistan	0.064	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.060
121. Palau	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
122. Panama	0.019	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
123. Papua New Guinea	0.005	0.006	0.005	0.006	0.006
124. Paraguay	0.017	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016
125. Peru	0.124	0.119	0.117	0.118	0.115
126. Philippines	0.079	0.101	0.099	0.100	0.097
127. Portugal	0.486	0.466	0.455	0.462	0.451
128. Qatar	0.035	0.034	0.033	0.034	0.033

Parties to the UNCCD[1]	Indicative scale of assessments for 2001 (%)[2]	UN scale 2002 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2002 (%)[2]	UN scale 2003 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2003 (%)[2]
129. Republic of Korea	1.806	1.866	1.823	1.851	1.806
130. Republic of Moldova	0.010	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
131. Romania	0.061	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.057
132. Rwanda*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
133. Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
134. Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
135. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
136. Samoa*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
137. San Marino	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
138. Sao Tome and Principe*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
139. Saudi Arabia	0.583	0.559	0.546	0.554	0.541
140. Senegal	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
141. Seychelles	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
142. Sierra Leone*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
143. Singapore	0.413	0.396	0.386	0.393	0.384
144. Slovenia	0.021	0.081	0.020	0.081	0.080
145. Solomon Islands*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
146. South Africa	0.428	0.411	0.401	0.408	0.399
147. Spain	2.649	2.539	2.480	2.519	2.458
148. Sri Lanka	0.017	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016
149. Sudan*	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
150. Suriname	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
151. Swaziland	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
152. Sweden	1.080	1.035	1.011	1.027	1.002
153. Switzerland	1.332	1.274	1.245	1.274	1.243
154. Syrian Arab Republic	0.084	0.081	0.079	0.080	0.079
155. Tajikistan	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
156. Thailand	0.125	0.254	0.145	0.294	0.287
157. Togo*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
158. Tonga	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
159. Trinidad and Tobago	0.000	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016

Parties to the UNCCD[1]	Indicative scale of assessments for 2001 (%)[2]	UN scale 2002 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2002 (%)[2]	UN scale 2003 (%)	Indicative scale of assessments for 2003 (%)[2]
160. Tunisia	0.032	0.031	0.030	0.030	0.029
161. Turkey	0.463	0.444	0.434	0.440	0.429
162. Turkmenistan	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003
163. Tuvalu*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
164. Uganda*	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
165. United Arab Emirates	0.214	0.204	0.199	0.202	0.197
166. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.819	5.579	5.450	5.536	5.402
167. United Republic of Tanzania*	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
168. United States of America	19.161	22.000	22.000	22.000	22.000
169. Uruguay	0.078	0.081	0.079	0.080	0.079
170. Uzbekistan	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
171. Vanuatu*	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
172. Venezuela	0.220	0.210	0.205	0.208	0.203
173. Viet Nam	0.016	0.013	0.013	0.016	0.016
174. Yemen*	0.010	0.007	0.007	0.006	0.006
175. Zambia*	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
176. Zimbabwe	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008
Total from Parties	100.000	101.943	100.000	101.850	100.000

Footnotes:

1/ Actual Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations which are Parties to the Convention as at 30 September 2001.

2/ In accordance with paragraph 12 (a) of the financial rules, the indicative scale is based on the United Nations scale of assessments as contained in General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/5 B-F of 23 December 2000.

*/ Least developed countries.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 5/COP.5

Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2 and 4/COP.3 on its programme of work, 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, 9/COP.3 on the review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, as well as its decision 1/COP.5,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of its sixth session and, if necessary, its seventh session:

(a) Adoption of the programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

(b) Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the Convention:

(i) Consideration of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

(ii) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology and the Global Mechanism related to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

(c) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(d) Global Mechanism:

(i) Review, pursuant to article 21, paragraph 5 (d), of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it;

(ii) Review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism;

(e) Review of available information regarding the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention;

(f) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2 (i) of the Convention;

(g) Consideration of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(h) Consideration of outstanding items:

(i) Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure;

(ii) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(iii) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention;

(i) Open dialogue with non-governmental organizations;

(j) Interactive dialogue session during the special segment;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least three months prior to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in paragraph 1 above.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 6/COP.5

Consideration of the regional coordination units initiative

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the importance of regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention, and the value of efforts at the regional level currently identified as the "regional coordination units" initiative,

Noting that this effort has not been considered by the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to include on the agenda of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties an item on the need for, modalities for, costs involved, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units;

2. *Decides also* that until this item is considered by the Conference of the Parties, funding for this initiative shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund;

3. *Invites* developed countries and multilateral agencies to contribute on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund for the regional coordination units initiative;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a background document to facilitate consideration of this agenda item.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 7/COP.5

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decision 21/21 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to establish an Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers on International Environmental Governance,

Recalling decision 17/COP.3 on collaboration with other conventions and international bodies,

Taking note of the ongoing work in improving cooperation between the conventions,

Recognizing that synergies among scientific and technological bodies are of fundamental importance,

1. *Acknowledges* the work done by the secretariat as outlined in ICCD/COP(5)/6;

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing work by the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers on International Environmental Governance;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to be involved in the International Environmental Governance process;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to include consideration of land/soil degradation, and its linkages to other environmental conventions, in its programme of work;

5. *Requests* the CST to enhance cooperation with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to report to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties on such cooperation;

6. *Encourages* international organizations, institutions and agencies to promote synergies in their mobilization of resources in support of the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);

7. *Encourages* Parties to share information, experiences and recommendations on synergies with other relevant conventions and to report to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate;

8. *Invites* the secretariat to present a report to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties on its activities relating to enhanced collaboration between the UNCCD, the CBD, the UNFCCC, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species.

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Decision 8/COP.5

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The Conference of the Parties,

Convinced that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) should be an excellent opportunity to mobilize more political will and resources to promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Deeply concerned that, despite many successful and continuing efforts of the international community since the entry into force of the Convention and the fact that some progress has been made, desertification worldwide is worsening,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 55/199 on the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which invited, *inter alia*, conventions related to the conference to participate fully in the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21,

Recalling also that Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 identified combating desertification as one of the strategic tasks in the field of environment and sustainable development,

1. *Decides* to submit to the World Summit on Sustainable Development through the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, for consideration, the Chairman's summary of the Ministerial and High-Level Interactive Dialogue sessions of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD on "Addressing the poverty-environment nexus through timely and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification" which is annexed to the report of the Conference of the Parties and reproduced below;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to submit to the WSSD through the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, for consideration, decision 3/COP.5 on the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and in particular the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group annexed thereto;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the WSSD, and in the Summit itself, with a view to ensuring that the UNCCD goals and objectives, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development, are duly reflected in its outcome, and to report to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties accordingly;

4. *Invites* the WSSD to take into account in the course of its deliberations the challenges of and opportunities in combating desertification, controlling land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought in affected countries, including those relating to financial resources, with a view to renewing political commitments and achieving sustainable development, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

5. *Encourages* Governments to involve UNCCD national focal points in the WSSD process, and non-governmental organizations to participate in that process, and invites developed countries to provide support to that end through appropriate channels.

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Annex

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

MINISTERIAL AND HIGH-LEVEL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE SESSIONS
Monday and Tuesday, 8-9 October 2001

Introduction

Two High-Level Open Dialogue sessions were held during the fifth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). One was an informal meeting at Ministerial level, the other, an open dialogue for all high-level representatives within the formal sessions of the Conference's special segment. The intention of these meetings was to encourage the involvement of high-level participants in order to elicit critical ideas and active dialogue, and to ensure that these high-level representatives had an opportunity to voice their concerns about the drylands at this last meeting of the COP prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002.

As an innovative experiment, these meetings were a success and many Parties have since expressed their satisfaction with the process; the Open Dialogue sessions of the special segment saw active engagement by some 40-50 speakers in frank discussion about critical issues facing the drylands. Parties may therefore wish to explore with the secretariat options for future sessions of this nature, perhaps even further refining and targeting the discussions in order to explore and advance specific agreed issues.

Participants are thanked for their contributions to this exchange; it is hoped that the following synthesis of the debate captures the key issues and themes which arose, and challenges all to continue this discussion in the various forums in which they will engage in the processes leading up to Johannesburg.

Context

Participants were challenged to identify what they believe to be the key issues in addressing the relationship between desertification, or land degradation, and poverty. They were asked to share their experiences on best practice - what works and what does not, to highlight the major impediments to progress, to indicate what they consider to be the priority actions that could be taken by affected country governments, donor organizations and countries, and affected populations, and to explore the potential contribution that can be made by the UNCCD as an instrument for poverty reduction, especially by capitalizing on the synergism amongst the multilateral environmental agreements.

Discussion: Overarching Challenges that emerged

It was confirmed by all that desertification is linked to poverty. Our understanding of desertification has evolved from a focus on the bio-physical aspects that lead to land degradation to a more comprehensive perspective which sees desertification to be clearly a developmental as well as an environmental issue. In identifying concrete actions for addressing desertification, participants in the discussion emphasized the need for actors to take into account the underlying socio-economic causes and constraints that create the conditions of poverty.

It was argued that desertification is both a primary cause and a consequence in the environment/poverty nexus. Losses of soils and water resources push marginal populations into a vicious spiral of increasing demands on scarcer natural resources; efforts to combat desertification should be targeted at breaking this cycle. They must be inter-organizational and multi-sectoral; building UNCCD objectives into poverty-reduction strategies would help in this regard. And finally, actions must achieve economies of scale and must provide return on investment.

Partnership is of key importance, between donors and developing countries, amongst donors, and with groups in civil society.

It was noted that at the national level the kind of cooperative, multi-sectoral approach which is required in order to address the desertification/poverty nexus with real results is at present a real challenge to the capacities of national governments. One idea which was debated was the possible need to strengthen the advocacy role and political profile of Ministries of the Environment within Parties' respective governments. It was also argued, on the other hand, that the problem was not so much a question of Ministerial weight, but rather one of constraints in the overall machinery of development. For example, the management and articulation of *planning* instruments for development, as negotiated by donor countries in partnership with recipient governments, tend to concentrate too much on the social sectors. The focus is poverty reduction, while relevant related issues such as the environment, which also require attention, are sometimes ignored. There is clearly a role for both donors and affected developing countries in seeking ways to raise the importance of the environment on the development agenda.

The generation of income was also seen as of prime importance in addressing the poverty-desertification-poverty cycle. It was argued that the promotion of alternative livelihoods could deliver results under the twin objectives of reducing poverty and combating desertification. In the context of rural agricultural economies, agricultural production and livelihood are closely entwined, and this relates to problems of food security, markets, agricultural trade and the overall macro-economic policy context. For example, policy decisions to centralize land holdings and invest in monoculture for export crops can result in increased land degradation, unstable pricing and declining livelihoods. Related environmental concerns, including chemical residue from inappropriate pesticide and fertilizer use only serve to exacerbate the problem.

Even when sustainable investments in agricultural production can be undertaken, they are unlikely to be successful if the basic infrastructure and enabling environment are not in place. Participants mentioned a variety of constraints including low market competitiveness, limited access to credit and investment and poor infrastructure, particularly roads to markets, access to water, or alternative energy supplies (to fuel wood). Provision of these are costly and long-term commitments.

In this regard, several participants raised the need for adequate financial assistance to be provided to affected developing countries to enable them to carry out the necessary work. Furthermore, support for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, both North-South and South-South, was a major requirement.

Another issue which featured prominently in many of the interventions during the special segment was the matter of land tenure and entitlement to productive resources. Many delegates shared their experience and knowledge of this subject. Suggestions were made ranging from advocating modern privatized land use systems through to the benefits of more traditional, community ownership practices. While no single system was identified as superior, it was clear from the discussion that this was a topic of great interest and one upon which the special segment was interested in engaging. The Convention may wish to explore this issue in greater detail.

While there was no consensus on this matter, it was clear that the topic of access and rights to land and secure livelihood is at the heart of the problem. Without the appropriate systems in place, affected people have no option but to migrate in times of distress and/or to resort to unsustainable agricultural practices. Unfortunately, as one participant noted, population movement to urban centres is not a solution and only serves to degrade peri-urban centres while contributing to urban poverty.

Population pressure in both the rural and urban contexts was an underlying issue which surfaced during the discussion. An interesting perspective was presented by one participant who noted that the real problem is not so much one of the numbers of people, but rather the nature of the impact they make. The concern therefore must be more on what these populations are doing, or not doing, vis-à-vis sustainable land use and management. Behaviour seems key.

In keeping with this conclusion, many participants indicated that solutions can be found only if we direct action to assisting the poor. However, these "pro-poor" solutions cannot be imposed. Nor is it a question of processes - consultation, participation, and so on - but rather one of empowerment. Giving affected people the means and autonomy to initiate, implement and take responsibility for their own processes of change; this is particularly true in the case of the most vulnerable groups of affected people. Further, the role of women was highlighted within the context of empowerment, and emphasized as a priority for attention, given the role that women play. Closely related to this call for empowerment are the notions of democratization and decentralization. Speakers identified trends which they were observing towards the increased participation of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and cooperatives, and the diffusion of decision-making and financial decision-making to affected local areas.

Also crucial to the discussion on behavioural change was the emphasis placed by various speakers on improving education and training. A broad spectrum of these kinds of needs was described, ranging from environmental education at primary school level, through capacity-building at the grassroots level, extension and vocational training in land and water use and enhanced scientific research capacity and application, to training for national decision-makers, training in economic valuation (in terms of economic assessment of desertification impacts), training of experts in dispute settlement, and even training for negotiators.

In terms of programme activity, it was observed that the very nature of interventions are changing as there is an increasing shift from a project to a programme means of delivery. Various contributors described their successful programmes, many of which featured ecosystem or watershed approaches (for example at the catchment level), transboundary actions, and so on. Others reflected on specific programme linkages which they have been trying to strengthen between desertification and climate change and/or biological diversity.

This notion of harmonization of multilateral environmental agreements and their effective inclusion into poverty reduction strategies was a recurrent theme during discussions. Unfortunately, many participants reflected that structuring of environmental issues through international conventions has led to the development of separate instruments, with distinct but parallel processes for engagement. Consequently, much work needs to be done to harness the synergies between the Conventions.

The need for policy coherence was also underlined. Again the nature of discussion during this special segment varied greatly. Some countries argued forcefully that what was needed was effective developing country leadership, while others pointed out that the donor community must recognize that their policy pressures and shorter-term planning cycles do not necessarily contribute to the longed-for integration. Rather there was recognition that donors must explore ways in which to engage in long-term partnership approaches, working with developing countries toward coordination and policy coherence.

And yet there is a danger, as another speaker noted, of overloading the policy agenda. The desire to be coherent and integrative may be immobilizing us completely. Perhaps the strongest message which was heard at the High-Level discussion was the need for action *now*.

Avenues towards further progress

The following are some key points from the discussion, which the COP may be interested in pursuing through further discussion:

- Poverty and desertification are inextricably linked.

- The reduction of poverty should be the overriding strategy that drives individual policy frameworks.

- UNCCD objectives should be built into poverty reduction strategies.

- The provision of adequate financing and support for technology transfer and capacity-building is essential.

- Simple, practical indicators, such as the amount of forest lost, land degraded or water available will help us to measure both our progress in the drylands and our overall success in addressing poverty.

- Policy coherence at all levels must be achieved on the basis of genuine partnership and consensus. Productive partnerships are the key to success.

- Priority must be given to triggering resource and income generation for local populations.

- Model or pilot projects could be used to illustrate lessons learnt and best practices for sustainable livelihood systems in the drylands.

- Effective use and deployment of existing resources implies bringing multilateral environment agreements into the mainstream of poverty reduction strategies.

- Donors should work with developing countries to support policy coherence with a view to assisting countries to incorporate the Convention into their strategic development frameworks.

- Work must be done to encourage the creation and/or strengthening of the necessary enabling environments (infrastructure, legal, institutional, etc.) which are preconditions to the effective implementation of this Convention.

- Environmental education is fundamental; this is in addition to broader needs relating to education, training, and capacity-building which require further support.

- Social and communal processes must be fostered through investments for equitable resource allocation, notably with regard to water.

- Local populations must be empowered to become capable of creating their own sustainable development.

- The role of civil society (NGOs, CBOs, cooperatives, etc.) as a key ally of government in the development process must be recognized and supported.

Decision 9/COP.5

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 21 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which establishes *inter alia* that "The Conference of the Parties shall promote the availability of financial mechanisms and shall encourage such mechanisms to seek to maximize the availability of funding for affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa, to implement the Convention",

Being aware that adequate and predictable financial resources are required in pursuit of the implementation of the Convention and the full and effective achievement of its objectives,

Noting the report of the Executive Secretary on the follow-up to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council decisions made in response to decision 9/COP.4 on collaboration with the GEF,

1. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the GEF Council at its May 2001 session to pursue the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a GEF focal area as a means of enhancing GEF support for the successful implementation of the UNCCD;

2. *Encourages* the GEF Council to take the necessary next steps in pursuit of designating land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a GEF focal area;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to continue to cooperate actively in the GEF secretariat's work on modalities for designating land degradation as a focal area;

4. *Encourages* further meetings of the Third Replenishment of the GEF to consider the need for new and additional financial resources, in the context of the Third Replenishment, to assist in achieving the objectives of the UNCCD;

5. *Further encourages* the GEF at its forthcoming meetings on replenishment, in the light of the possible designation by the GEF Assembly of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a new focal area of the GEF, to consider the needs arising from such designation.

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Decision 10/COP.5

Review and implementation of scientific and technological aspects of national reports

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 10/COP.4,

Taking note of decisions 11/COP.1, 6/COP.3 and 10/COP.4 to establish an ad hoc working group to review and analyse national reports submitted by Parties,

Recalling the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group contained in ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6,

Taking note also of the concern expressed by representatives of the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourth session regarding the lack of information on scientific and technological matters, particularly on benchmarks and indicators, contained in the national reports submitted by the Parties,

Requests the secretariat to include in the next edition of the Help Guide the revisions to ICCD/COP(5)/CST/5 as proposed by the representatives to the Committee on Science and Technology at its fifth session.

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Decision 11/COP.5

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 22/COP.1, 16/COP.2, 11/COP.3, and 11/COP.4,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) on their initiative on the development of benchmarks and indicators, as well as their reports contained in ICCD/COP(5)/CST/7,

1. *Encourages* the CILSS and OSS, the countries of the GRULAC region and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue their initiative on the development of benchmarks and indicators for the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Encourages* the Parties to develop and test appropriate benchmarks and indicators, in particular those which target the local level and the involvement of civil society, and to report on the results to the Committee on Science and Technology at its next session;

3. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Mechanism to take the necessary measures to facilitate South-South exchanges on benchmarks and indicators, including the strengthening of capacities;

4. *Invites* the Parties to contribute technically and financially to the initiatives undertaken by developing country Parties to develop and test appropriate benchmarks and indicators, including activities for training and capacity development.

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Decision 12/COP.5

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the reports[1] and recommendations of the two ad hoc panels on traditional knowledge,

Recalling its decision 12/COP.4 on traditional knowledge,

Taking note that the Italian Government is in the process of establishing an international research centre on traditional knowledge at Matera, Italy,

Also taking note with appreciation of the proposal[2] presented by the Italian Government on its work on traditional knowledge,

1. *Encourages* the Italian Government to revise its proposal, taking into account the comments and observations presented by the members of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at the fifth session of the CST;

2. *Invites* the Italian Government to continue its work on traditional knowledge undertaken in collaboration with the other interested institutions;

3. *Requests* the Parties, international organizations and institutions dealing with traditional knowledge, and the Global Mechanism, to explore a partnership agreement to establish a network on traditional knowledge as proposed by the Government of Italy.

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[1] ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(4)/CST/2.
[2] ICCD/COP(5)/CST/2.

Decision 13/COP.5

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 25 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Recalling also its decisions 23/COP.1, 17/COP.2, 13/COP.3 and 17/COP.4,

Bearing in mind the usefulness of this survey and evaluation for the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and members of its consortium in this respect,

Having reviewed the positive results of the Desk evaluation report of Phase 1 of the survey and evaluation of existing networks to support the implementation of the UNCCD,

Taking note of the lack of financial support for the proposal for Phase 2 as contained in ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3/Add.1,

Taking into consideration the request made by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to UNEP on behalf of its consortium members, to submit a revised proposal on Phase 2 for consideration by the CST at its fifth session,

1. *Accepts* the revised proposal put forward by UNEP on behalf of its consortium members, as contained in ICCD/COP(5)/CST/3;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements with UNEP for the implementation of Phase 2 of the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies, as soon as the necessary funding arrangements have been made;

3. *Requests* UNEP on behalf of its consortium members to submit to the secretariat an interim progress report for presentation to the CST Bureau at its inter-sessional meeting, and submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session;

4. *Requests* Parties, signatories to the Convention and interested organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund established for the purpose of funding the work contemplated by this decision.

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Decision 14/COP.5

Early warning systems

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the reports and recommendations of the ad hoc panels on early warning systems[1] as well as the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology[2],

Recalling decision 14/COP.4 to reappoint an ad hoc panel on early warning systems,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to seek the necessary resources to publish and distribute in a suitable form, as widely as possible, the report together with the background papers submitted to the reappointed ad hoc panel on early warning systems;

2. *Invites* the Parties, according to their financial and technical capacities, to carry out pilot studies on early warning systems utilizing the recommendations of the ad hoc panel, and to report on progress to the CST at an appropriate session;

3. *Encourages* Parties and international organizations to provide technical and financial support to developing country Parties wishing to carry out such pilot studies on early warning systems.

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[1] ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4 and ICCD/COP(5)/CST/4.
[2] ICCD/COP(5)/INF.6.

Decision 15/COP.5

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Having reviewed the revised roster of independent experts prepared by the secretariat in accordance with decision 15/COP.4, on submissions received from Parties through diplomatic channels,

Having reviewed also the report[1] prepared by the secretariat for the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the important role played by community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention,

Noting the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system,

Noting also the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on this subject,

1. *Encourages* the Parties using the appropriate mechanisms, such as, for example, focal points, to include in their submissions experts from community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations in the roster of independent experts;

2. *Invites* Parties to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster using the format contained in annex 2 of ICCD/COP(5)/5/Add.1, with the aim in particular of:

(a) Making the roster more balanced in terms of gender;
(b) Ensuring better representation of all relevant disciplines;
(c) Including expertise from civil society;

3. *Invites* Parties that have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster to do so, including full postal and e-mail addresses, via regular diplomatic channels, six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Further invites* Parties to report to the secretariat on the use that they have made of the roster, six months before the next session of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster of experts is made available in electronic form, as appropriate;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to distribute a hard copy of the roster to Parties before the next session of the Conference of the Parties.

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[1] ICCD/COP(5)/5/Add.1

Decision 16/COP.5

Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation, and in particular paragraph 18 of the procedures annexed to that decision, which concerns the review process,

Recalling also decisions 16/COP.3 and 16/COP.4 on the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

1. *Decides* that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the CST at its sixth session shall be:

"Land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach";

2. *Invites* Parties to submit reports on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to the above theme, which should not exceed ten pages in length, and which should be transmitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification no later than four months before the next session;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of such reports for consideration at the sixth session of the CST;

4. *Decides also* that the agenda for the sixth session of the CST shall include, *inter alia*, the topics on the agenda of the fifth session of the CST;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the convening of one inter-sessional Bureau meeting of the CST for the review of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties and other related matters regarding the work of the CST, especially the planning and organization of the next session of the CST.

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Decision 17/COP.5

Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, on the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Recalling also decisions 15/COP.1 and 17/COP.4,

Taking note of the submissions made by Parties, and the synthesis of the submissions prepared by the secretariat, on ways of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, as contained in ICCD/COP(5)/3/Add.2,

Taking note also of the interventions made by Parties on the need for concrete linkages between the CST and the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and on the need to strive for better synergies between the Conference of the Parties and the CST with the aim of advancing the implementation of the Convention, and also on the need to find better mechanisms for feeding scientific and technological information into the CST,

Considering the results of the extensive consultations between the regional groups, as contained in annex 1 of the aforementioned document,

Decides to adopt ways and means to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of the CST, including the establishing of a group of experts, as defined in the attached annex.

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Annex

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. There is a need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Convention;

2. The reform of the CST should be considered within its existing mandate;

3. The duration of the meeting of the CST should remain unchanged;

4. The CST should play a role in the review of national reports, using the synthesis and summaries of the reports prepared by the secretariat;

5. There is a need to better integrate the activities of the CST into national and regional activities;

6. CST representatives need to play a more active liaison role between the CST's activities and those of the regional groups, as well as during the review of national reports;

7. Under the authority of the CST, a group of experts in the area of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought should be established;

8. The programme of work of the group of experts, as well as its mandate, should be pluri-annual in nature, for a maximum of four years, during which time the group of experts should report to the CST at its sessions;

9. The composition of the group of experts should not exceed 25 members, with the exact number to be determined by the programme of work, as defined by the CST;

10. The composition of the group of experts should be based on the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution;

11. The experts, in order to be selected, should have their names on the roster of independent experts; they will be selected by the CST Bureau on a one-time basis, in consultation with the regional groups and the secretariat. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) will finalize the first selection of experts as soon as possible after COP 5. Subsequent selections of experts shall be based on a new programme of work, and shall be recommended by the CST for approval by the COP. The competence of the experts presented by each regional group will be determined on the basis of a curriculum vitae, which should include a paper on a specific issue contained in the programme of work;

12. The programme of work of the group of experts and the terms of reference should be defined by the CST based on the themes, activities and issues of relevance to the Convention, and focusing, as appropriate, on the state of knowledge, the scale of impact, opportunities for mitigation, and implications for policy makers;

13. The group of experts should use existing means of communication, such as through electronic means, face-to-face meetings, etc.;

14. The group of experts should meet once per year for a maximum of one week, unless determined otherwise by the Bureau of the COP, in consultation with the Parties;

15. The CST, after four years, should review the work of the group of experts to determine its future role and continued relevance;

16. The CST recommends that the financial implications of the activities of the group of experts should come from the regular budget; in order to maintain the independent nature of the group of experts, the participation costs of all the members should be covered, regardless of whether the member comes from a developed or developing country; and noting that a decision will only be made when all financial considerations have been taken into account.

Decision 18/COP.5

Programme of work for the group of experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 17/COP.4,

Recalling also document ICCD/COP(5)/3/Add.2,

Taking note of decision 17/COP.5, adopted by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its fifth session, on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, including the establishing of a group of experts,

1. *Invites* the Parties and relevant organizations to submit in writing to the secretariat their recommendations on the programme of work to be undertaken by the group of experts. The recommendations, which should be provided no later than 1 February 2002, should not exceed five pages in length;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to transmit the recommendations received from the Parties to the members of the Bureau of the CST;

3. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST to review and synthesize the recommendations, which should constitute the main elements of the programme of work for the group of experts, and to define the programme of work for the group of experts and communicate it to the Parties;

4. *Requests* the Bureau of the CST, in consultation with the regional groups and the secretariat, to make the necessary arrangements for selection of the appropriate experts, bearing in mind the programme of work of the group of experts defined by the Bureau of the CST and the procedures outlined in paragraph 11 of the annex to decision 17/COP.5;

5. *Decides* that the programme of work for the group of experts will be decided in this manner on a one-time basis only, and that in future the programme of work for the group of experts will be determined by the CST, in accordance with paragraph 12 of the annex to decision 17/COP.5.

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Decision 19/COP.5

Dryland Degradation Assessment and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives on the Dryland Degradation Assessment (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) carried out by various international organizations and institutions, with the collaboration of the secretariat,

Taking note of the presentations made by representatives of the LADA and the MEA as well as the information contained in ICCD/COP(5)/INF.7,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the LADA and the MEA and to facilitate the involvement of the Parties, in order that the concerns of the Parties are taken into account in the assessments;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the progress of these two initiatives at the next session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 20/COP.5

Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 21/COP.2 on consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure,

Taking note of the draft text of rule 47, as amended by decision 21/COP.2,[1]

Taking note also of the report from the secretariat contained in ICCD/COP(5)/7,

Having heard the report of the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the result of his consultations on the outstanding issue related to rule 47 of the rules of procedure,

Requests the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

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[1] ICCD/COP(3)/13, annex.

Decision 21/COP.5

Resolution of questions on implementation, arbitration and conciliation procedures

A. Resolution of questions of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also decisions 20/COP.3 and 20/COP.4, Part A,

Noting that paragraph 51 of ICCD/COP(4)/8 would fo: a basis for the further work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts,

Noting further that the question of linkages between article 27 and articles 22.2, 26 and 28 requires further consideration,

1. *Decides*, for purposes of fulfilling article 27 of the Convention, to reconvene, during its sixth session, the open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts to examine further and make recommendations on procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation;

2. *Decides further* that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts shall take as the basis of its work a new working document prepared by the secretariat in the light of ICCD/COP(4)/8 and ICCD/COP(5)/8 and noting the progress made in negotiations on the same matter in other relevant environmental conventions;

3. *Invites* any Parties wishing to communicate their views on article 27 to do so, in writing to the secretariat, by 31 January 2003;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to include such views in the new working document referred to in paragraph 2 above for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

B. Arbitration and conciliation procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 28, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex to the Convention as soon as practicable,

Recalling further article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex to the Convention as soon as practicable,

Recalling also decisions 20/COP.3 and 20/COP.4, Part B,

1. *Decides*, for the purposes of fulfilling article 28 of the Convention, to reconvene, at its sixth session, the open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts to examine further and make recommendations on the following issues:

(a) annex on arbitration procedures;
(b) annex on conciliation procedures;

2. *Decides further* that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts shall take as the basis of its work a new working document prepared by the secretariat incorporating the material contained in ICCD/COP(4)/8 and ICCD/COP(5)/8 and noting the progress made in negotiations on the same matters in other relevant environmental conventions;

3. *Invites* any Parties wishing to communicate their views on the issues referred to in paragraph 1(a) and (b) above to do so, in writing to the secretariat, by 31 January 2003;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to include such views in the new working document referred to in paragraph 2 above for consideration by the Ad Hoc Group of Experts.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 22/COP.5

World Day to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the Convention,

Welcoming the recommendations of the fourth meeting of national focal points in Asia held on 26-27 June 2001 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia,

1. *Recognizes* the need to designate a theme for the World Day to Combat Desertification each year;

2. *Agrees* to adopt "Land degradation" as the global theme for the World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June 2002, recognizing that countries may choose sub-themes for national activities;

3. *Invites* the Parties to carry out national activities in relation to the above theme.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

Decision 23/COP.5

Report on the fourth Round Table of Parliamentarians

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration of Members of Parliament regarding the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, made by Honorable Mr. Girigissou Gado, Deputy, National Assembly of Benin, reporting on the outcome of the fourth Round Table of Parliamentarians, which took place at Geneva on 4 and 5 October 2001, and in which 26 Parliamentarians from 26 countries participated,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the Declaration;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifth session.

9th plenary meeting
10 October 2001

Annex

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Fourth Round Table of Members of Parliament
Geneva, 4-5 October 2001
in parallel with the fifth Conference of the Parties to
the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The role of members of parliament in addressing the interlinkages between poverty and sustainable development, particularly desertification, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

I. ***We, members of parliament***, meeting in Geneva on 4 and 5 October 2001 for the fourth Round Table at the invitation of the Convention secretariat, with the full support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the assistance of the Government of Switzerland, in the sidelines of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Deeply concerned by the persistent trends of desertification worldwide, particularly in the fragile ecosystems of developing countries' economies,

Aware of the enormous losses generated by this large-scale phenomenon and its direct consequences for global equilibrium, particularly insofar as it relates to food production and availability, disruption of traditional migration flows, and human security,

Conscious of the global threat that lies in the continuous degradation of the land that sustains us,

Mindful of the direct causality links existing between land degradation and poverty which generate vicious circles of land over-exploitation by increasingly deprived communities,

Bearing in mind the increasing deprivation suffered by poor people in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural services and opportunities,

Recalling the warning of the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme regarding the risk of producing a "world gargantuan in its excess, grotesque in its human and economic inequalities" if the imbalance in economic growth continues,

Conscious that not all the economic growth is beneficial when it embraces policies leading to development that is jobless (creates unemployment), ruthless (benefits on the rich to the exclusion of the poor), voiceless (suppresses democratic expression), rootless (destroys links to community and culture) and futureless (destroys the planetary support system),

Declare that:

1. We are deeply alarmed by the increasing environmental degradation, particularly desertification, that has now reached such magnitude that it threatens the very basis of life on Earth.

2. We are greatly concerned by the continuous losses in productivity of the first sector, which still constitutes the main source of revenue for the economies of the majority of developing countries.

3. We are seriously worried by clear and sustained data indicating that desertification processes severely undermine sustainable economic growth, limit food security and exacerbate susceptibility to famine, often accompanied by large-scale movements of displaced people and by armed conflicts.

4. We are conscious of the fact that the established trends in terms of natural resources exploitation as well as the current patterns of consumption have by far exceeded the earth's carrying capacities.

5. We are convinced that addressing the issue of poverty eradication, particularly widespread environment-induced poverty and its tragic consequences in terms of macro-social disruptions, must be conceived as a total priority of integrated international policy schemes towards the promotion of sustainable development.

6. We are persuaded of the necessity to declare the land that feeds us, and particularly what is known as its topsoil layer, as a common human patrimony requiring imperative, urgent, concerted and worldwide protection.

7. We firmly believe that public policies should be clearly oriented towards addressing the root causes of poverty through participative and democratic processes leading to a real and efficient empowerment of communities, especially women, at the front line of the sustainable development struggle.

8. We underline our conviction that growth can not constitute an objective per se and should therefore be accompanied by social regulatory mechanisms which ensure an equitable redistribution of wealth amongst all, which address the issue of land tenure and which guarantee access to education in order to empower poor people and allow them to realise their potential, and in order to reduce their vulnerability to exogenous pressures.

9. We recognize that prevailing macro-economic policies have great impacts on the processes of impoverishment, and we call therefore upon developed countries, in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Convention, to take appropriate actions aimed at relieving the current burden of developing countries, particularly through the promotion of economic reforms aimed at combining growth with human development, equity and social justice by, *inter alia*:

- Agreeing on the relief of external debt,
- Reducing interest rates,
- Improving the overall trading environment.

II. ***In affirming our commitment***, as members of parliament, to contribute fully to the implementation of the Convention, we note with appreciation that the international community in its wisdom has decided to address the urgent issue of UNCCD funding, particularly by defining ways and means of identifying reliable and centralized multilateral financial mechanisms in order to ensure that affected developing country Parties to the Convention dispose of the required financial predictability essential to their economic planning and policy formulation.

In this regard:

10. We fully support the decision of the last Governing Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held in Washington D.C. in May 2001, which requested the Chief Executive Officer "to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, taking into account the third replenishment of the GEF".

11. We further agree with the GEF Governing Council that addressing the issue of land degradation is an integral part of the pursuit of sustainable development, poverty alleviation and synergism amongst the global environmental conventions. We consequently praise the GEF Council for agreeing that the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a GEF focal area should be pursued, as a means for enhancing GEF support for the successful implementation of the UNCCD.

12. We strongly request the country Parties to the Convention to designate the GEF as the operational financial mechanism of the UNCCD, in order to provide it with the predictable financial resources which will enable it to achieve its objectives in a timely and efficient manner.

13. Accordingly, we further request the GEF, at its next Assembly meeting in Beijing, China, in 2002, to make desertification a fully fledged GEF focal area along with biodiversity, climate change, the protection of the ozone layer and international waters.

14. We firmly believe that all major environmental issues are intrinsically linked and require a concerted international effort to address them synergistically. Particular emphasis should be placed on building up a culture of synergism in the implementation of the different legally binding sustainable development instruments at the field level.

15. We fully support all initiatives which aim at encouraging sustainable development promotion in order to ensure the best use of financial and human resources and the effective use of available expertise and comparative advantages, including traditional knowledge, in both developed and developing countries as well as the public and private sectors.

16. We request all presiding officers to take steps to publicise the present declaration by placing it on the agenda of their national parliaments or by bringing it to the attention of all members of their parliament in some other appropriate way.

III. ***Finally, we request*** the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with the assistance of the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

17. To take all necessary measures to bring the present declaration to the attention of the world leaders at the forthcoming meeting of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

18. To organize the next Round Table of members of parliament in conjunction with the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

19. To take follow-up action on the decisions of the present round table and to develop strategies in order to achieve universal awareness of the declarations and progress reports of the parliamentarian round table process.

Decision 24/COP.5

Credentials of representatives of Parties to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives of Parties to the fifth session[1] of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

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[1] See also ICCD/COP(5)/10.

Decision 25/COP.5

Date and venue of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also its decision 1/COP.2 on Ordinary Sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Decides* that the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, from 19 to 31 October 2003, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and to meet the additional financial cost;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau to accommodate, by 31 January 2003, any offer from a Party to host the sixth session;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties.

11th plenary meeting
12 October 2001

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